415 The flute-work in the corners and the strong handles of solid stone both
324 disappeared, though the latter survived among the Caribou Eskimo.[1] In order
531 perhaps to replace the handles, the neat ridges were lowered down the face of
178 the short ends, and they were dropped entirely from the longer sides. With regard to the flute-work in each corner one may perhaps conjecture that it was a rounded projection pierced with a suspension hole, as in the pots of West Greenland,[2] to avoid drilling through the actual wall. So far as I know no specimen exists of the type of pot seen by Hearne.

TABLE

352 The table, having no legs, was practicable only in a snow-hut where one end could be supported by the snow wall.[3] As soon as the snow melted, therefore, it was cached with the lamp at some convenient spot on land and abandoned until the early winter. In shape, it was roughly rectangular, with one end often a little wider than the other; and in size, it ranged from 3½ to 4½ feet long by 10 to 15 inches wide. An average specimen is shown in Figure 61.

Figure 61. Table. IV.D.698. Approx. 1/12.

DRYING FRAME

• 417 The Copper Eskimo generally bestowed very little care on the making and handling of their drying frames, which, in consequence, were frequently broken and bent out of shape. Properly made specimens were never round, but roughly oval, the curve being flattened on the long side that fronted the sleeping platform. [414] Occasionally the two ends of the wooden hoop were merely lashed together; more often they were pegged with bone or copper pins. The frame was further strengthened by cross bars of sticks that passed at intervals of a few inches from one long side to the other and were lashed to the under edge of the frame exactly as the cross bars of a sled were lashed to the runners. Newly made [286] specimens, especially if large, had webbings of rawhide, but when the rawhide dried out and broke the owners often mended it with sinew. The thongs passed through holes (often sunken) in the frame, forming a warp and a weft that interlaced in what is known as cross-weft pattern, and gave square meshes from 2 to 4 inches across. A typical drying frame is shown in Figure 62. Simpson reported frames made of baleen on the south coast of Victoria Island near Wellington Bay,[4] but all that I observed were made of wood.

[113] [1] Birket-Smith, Kaj: The Caribou Eskimos, pt. 1, p. 143; Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-24, vol. V, Copenhagen, 1929.

[113] [2] Thomsen, T.: Implements and Artefacts of the North-East Greenlanders; Meddelelser om Grønland, vol. XLIV, p. 449.

[3] For the method of supporting the table, lamp, cooking pot, and drying frame *See* Reports of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, vol. XII, pt. A, p. 61.

[113] [4] Simpson, Thomas: Narrative of the Discoveries on the North Coast of America, London, 1843, p. 381.

417

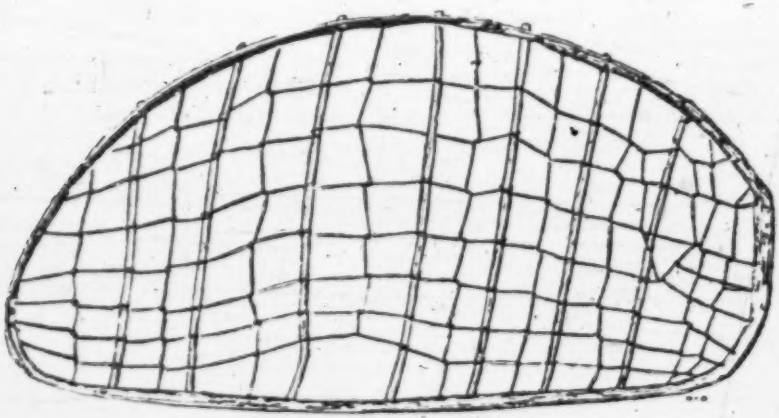

Figure 62. Drying frame. IV.D.647. Approx. 1/14.

BLUBBER POUNDERS

Although a stone or any convenient implement might be used in an emergency to pound the blubber for the lamp, every household possessed at least one, and often two or three implements especially made for this purpose. It was invariably of musk-ox horn, curved evenly almost to a semicircle. The handle was flattened on the sides, and had three or, more usually, four grooves on the under surface to fit the fingers; rarely it ended in a small knob. In size it varied from children's toys 2 or 3 inches long to specimens of 11 inches; the average household size was around 8 inches (Figure 63). Ornamentation was rare, but one specimen in the possession of the Museum (IV.D.1611) has etched into its surface the ring-and-dot design and three parallel lines.

321 412 322 [531]

Figure 63. Blubber pounders, of musk-ox horn, the smallest a toy only. IV.D.150, 435, 1632. Approx. 3/8.

These Copper Eskimo blubber pounders of musk-ox horn differ slightly from the Netchilik specimen figured by Boas.[1] The latter have for the first finger a deep notch that seems to form almost a right angle, sharply dividing the hammer end from the handle. All the Copper Eskimo specimens that I have seen bear rounded grooves only, so that their form is much more graceful. Blubber pounders were used in west and northwest Greenland,[2] and probably also both in Mackenzie delta and in Alaska. The typical West

412 322 321 171 [113]

[1] Boas, F.: Eskimo of Baffin Island and Hudson Bay; Anth. Papers, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. XV, 1907, p. 402.
[2] Thalbitzer, William: Meddelelser om Grønland, vol. 39, p. 533.

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
ND8 Copper Eskimo ND8

752
132 the day, and its light was doubled by reflection from the snow. So man, like the animals, changed his colour
142 with the season. The faces of the Eskimos during the dark days of winter had been as fair as an Englishman's; now they were tanned to the deep rich brown of a southern European. One or two appeared to be darker still, but I strongly suspected that they could be appreciably lightened by a liberal application of soap and water.

372 Ikpuck and I conveyed his blubber pokes to a small
• 417 island three miles off the coast, where we covered them with boulders to protect them from sea-gulls and foxes. The sea-gulls were easily deterred, but only a well-built cache could keep out the foxes, which worm their way into the smallest crevices. Before open water cut off communication with the shore, however, all animals would leave the island, and nothing could disturb our pokes throughout the summer.

225 Continual sealing began to pall on the Eskimos when the safe disposition of their blubber removed the last
132 excuse for lingering on the sea-ice. The long winter had come to an end, and the midnight sun was shining over their heads. They forgot the monotonous hours of confinement within the dimly lighted huts, when the blizzards raged outdoors and the twilight of noon resembled night rather than day. The earth was
136 awakening to life again after its long sleep. Ducks
137 and loons flew overhead, the ptarmigan in the valleys

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
ND8 Copper Eskimo ND8

almost devoid of vegetation. We stumbled over a bed of dolomite split by frost into rectangular blocks, its resemblance to the floor of an ancient temple heightened by two stone pillars erected several years before to support a kayak or hunting canoe. A mile or two beyond a caribou caught our scent, whisked up its tail, and bounded out of sight behind a low ridge. We could see a fair-sized stream in the distance tumbling among the rocks; and there Ikpuck instructed us to camp while he pursued the caribou that had just disappeared. Twelve hours later, when every one was asleep, he returned, and, pushing open the door of my tent, displayed the skins of two caribou; their carcasses he had left side by side for the women to bring in, merely aligning some boulders on top of a knoll to guide them in their search. Icehouse and Jennie dressed and departed immediately with dogs and packlines. The howling of the other dogs aroused the camp, and a second party went out to look for more caribou. So, for one reason and another, we lingered in this spot nearly three days.

Instead of hunting during this interval, I made a collection of all the plants growing around us, and enjoyed two swims in a neighbouring pool. A bath is a rare luxury in the Arctic, where there is often no water to wash even the face and hands. My companions solved the problem by never washing. Contact with the snow in winter purified them, and in